

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 5-9, 14-18, and 21-25 are pending in the application. Independent claims 5 and 14 have been amended to, among other things, incorporate claims 19 and 20, respectively. Claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21-25 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

In the December 9, 2003 Advisory Action, the last two sentences on the continuation sheet, the Examiner argued that claims 5 and 14, as finally rejected, did not define over the applied references because claims 5 and 14 did not require that the sheet carrier be **completely removed**. By the Amendment filed January 2, 2004, Applicants proposed to incorporate claims 19 and 20 in claims 5 and 14, respectively, to positively recite the above highlighted limitation. However, the Examiner, by the January 21, 2004 Advisory Action, still decided to maintain the final rejections of all pending claims notwithstanding the amendments and arguments filed January 2, 2004. The Examiner seemed to have changed his position. Moreover, in the January 21, 2004 Advisory Action, the Examiner did not specify the reason why the final rejections are sustained. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references clearly fail to teach or suggest the feature of claims 19 and 20, now recited in amended claims 5 and 14, for the reasons advanced in the January 2, 2004 Amendment, which are incorporated herein by reference.

In addition, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 14 to further require that said sheet carrier be completely removed **from the package body** in the step of removing the sheet carrier. The applied references clearly fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

Moreover, the applied references also fail to teach or suggest the step of forming a photoresist layer on the half-etched metal layer and half-removing the photoresist layer such that only the photoresist within the cavities is left. The claimed steps are patentably different from the *Coffman* steps of applying a photo-imageable resist layer 32 overlying surface 23 and then photolithographically patterning the layer 32 as illustrated in Fig. 3 and disclosed in col.2, line 60-64 of *Coffman*.

Therefore, the invention of claims 5 and 14 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references.

Dependent claims 6-9, 15-18 and new claims 21-25 should be considered patentable for the reasons advanced above with respect to amended independent claims 5 and 14.

As to claims 21 and 24, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest that the metal coating is formed on the upper surface of each of the die/connection pads to cover not only said upper surface **but also a portion of the side wall adjacent to said upper surface**. Note element 240 in FIG. 2 of the instant application. Also note, element 140 in FIG. 16 of *Coffman*.

As to claim 22, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest that the step of removing the sheet carrier is performed so that to **expose a lower surface of said chip**. Note, e.g., FIG. 11 of the instant application. Also note, all figures of *Coffman*, i.e., the lower surface of the *Coffman* chip is never exposed.

As to claims 23 and 25, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest that the step of removing the sheet carrier is performed **before** the step of forming the protective metal flash.

Note, e.g., page 6, lines 10-11 of the specification of the instant application. Also, note FIGs. 16-17 of *Coffman*, i.e., the layer 152 (FIG. 16) is used as a mask to partially remove "sheet carrier" 126 to obtain the structure of FIG. 17. Thus, the partial removal of "sheet carrier" 126 must be performed after the formation of layer 152.

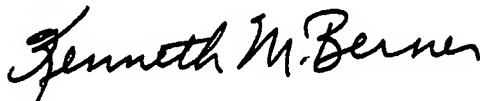
Accordingly, all claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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